

# To Clean Gilding

There are several good ways of cleaning a gilt frame or gilding upon furniture, so as to remove adhesive dirt and at the same time to restore the brightness without disturbing the gilding; but it is as well to know that soap and water is not one of them. For really fine work the white of an egg should be beaten up, mixed with a dessertspoonful of javelle water, and applied with a brush. It is then removed with a soft cloth and the gilding polished with a chamois. Almost as good a way is to mix the white of egg with a tablespoonful of baking soda, and apply with a sponge, or a weak solution of salts of tartar may be used by itself. For small surfaces a cut lemon can be rubbed over, being followed by a sponging with water in which baking soda has been dissolved in the proportion of one tablespoonful to a pint. Yet another plan is to cover the surface with a thick paste of sifted whiting moistened with alcohol, and to remove this with a flannel before it hardens, but this gives considerably more work if the gilding is carved or edged with moulding. These cleaning hints, of course, are applicable only to genuine gilding, not to articles that have been treated with gold or bronze paint.